



June 9th 2019

**Welcome to St. Peter's, we hope
you enjoy your time with us.
Please stay for some
refreshments afterwards!**

More thoughts on growing

Every year we send Mission Statistics to the diocese, giving latest numbers attending church services. This always challenges me – if only we had more people, more new Christians, more income, more ... more ... more.... , then I would feel more positive!

Measuring growth is important if we are to know whether our efforts are achieving our goals – but it is a short step to our size and success then becoming the basis for our identity and security. Too often we end up reaching fewer people than we hoped for, whilst others grow quickly, and yet, small and slow-growing can be healthy, or it can be the opposite. In the same way, large and fast growing can be healthy or unhealthy.

No matter how I try to measure the right things for the right reasons, my insecurities lead me into false and ancillary measurings. This is part of human nature, to find our worth in what we do and achieve. If the enemy is a prowling lion seeking to devour us, he certainly paces around the moments we measure growth, whispering lies to us.

Thankfully, Jesus, in the Parable of the Sower, offers a different way of measuring. We are all workers in the fields of life, where we plant, water, nurture, harvest. Jesus talks about yeast, seeds and soil, of how growth happens. We are called to plant what we can in the soil we have with the resources we have, and then God gives the increase.

Yet we still compare our soil with the soil of others. Some seed landed on the path, some on rocky ground, some amongst thorns and some in good soil. Some seed is snatched away by the worries of the world, some has no roots, some is destroyed by deceit, and some grows well.

So where is the best place to plant, and which soil would you choose? Our instinct is for the good soil, the place of maximum impact but Jesus does not tell us to only plant in good soil; instead, he tells us to plant in all the world, whatever the soil.

Our measuring includes soil sampling, testing, knowing where to break up, water, fertilise and plant, to get the most from the soil we are in. That is why Jesus frees and empowers us to measure robustly, and to accept what the soil is like where we are.

I track many things in the life of St. Peter's, as well as elsewhere in Derby and throughout the Diocese, and I also keep an eye on what is happening elsewhere. I do this not because I'm obsessed with numbers but because I do not want to shy away from the hard data of the farmer who examines his soil. I want to sow better where God has placed me – that those who don't know him might come to know him, and those who know him might know him better.

Paul

Coming soon

Tuesday, June 11th, 2.30, Afternoon Tea

With a different theme each month, come and enjoy a tea that has been described as *'just like at The Savoy!'* This is followed by Service of Evening Prayer at 3.45-4.00.

Saturday, June 15th, Derby Christian Women's Network meeting, 10.00-2.00

Meeting at YWAM, Overcame House, Whitaker Road, Littleover, this has replaced the Prayer Breakfast this month.

Sunday, July 7th, Lunch together after the service

You are invited to join us, and bring the family – all are welcome to come to lunch after the 10.45 service – and with a dingbats quiz too!

Saturday, July 13th, from 8.00 – 10.00am, Prayer Breakfast

This is our monthly prayer breakfast, all welcome.

Hilary Streek

For personal reasons, Hilary has resigned as Paul's Personal Assistant, which includes the role of Administrator at St. Peter's. We are so grateful for all that Hilary achieved in her role, and shall express our appreciation in the near future.

Vicar's Personal Assistant and Church Administrator

We are hoping to make a new appointment to this post shortly. If you are interested, or would like to have a conversation about this, please have a word with Paul.

Lent Project

Thank you to everyone who has given to our Lent Project supporting Brace Bridge in Kolkata, where the Dalit community live by the railway tracks; and Green Pastures, who provide accommodation and support for the homeless. The total raised will be announced on today. Thank you once again to everyone who has given so generously and joyfully, that others may be blessed.

PCC Update

PCC news

This was the first 'normal' meeting of the new PCC following the Inside Out special meeting in March. Newly elected members were welcomed, but due to the small size of the PCC, it was agreed to co-opt Bill Poole as an additional member.

Friday Service

Derby City Mission are now leading this service with support from those who have led in the past. DCM will continue without this support from September.

Inside Out

We continue to be both encouraged and challenged – and seek the prayers of the congregation for this ministry with ex-offenders and those in danger of offending or re-offending. The Inside Out community is growing, the numbers of participants meeting with mentors is growing, but our need for more resources is also growing.

Leadership Community Day on June 22nd

This will be a significant occasion as we set time aside at Bradbourne Church Hall, near Ashbourne, to pray and look at the scriptures and seek guidance for the vision, strategy and future ministry of St. Peter's.

Safeguarding

We are making progress with completing the Safeguarding requirements. New literature including a 'Promoting a Safer Church' has come from the Deputy National Safeguarding Adviser to the Church of England and on the noticeboard.

Prayer ...

People wearing a 'Prayer Team' badge would be glad to pray for you. Do not hesitate to ask for prayer, this can be for any concern you have, it needn't be a crisis! We all face difficulties and challenges, and prayer works! Or maybe you would like to thank God for answered prayer. `Whatever your situation, we'd love to pray with you! In an emergency, call Bren (07967 183601), and those on the prayer chain will pray for you.

IN THE WEEK

Monday to Friday, 10.00-3.00: Church is open

Tuesday and Friday, 11.00-12.30: refreshments are served

Friday, 12.30: Lunchtime Service

Space to take notes from today's readings, prayers and sermon.

St. Peter's in the City Staff:

Vicar: Revd. Canon Paul Morris
paul@stpetersderby.org.uk

Building Manager: Melvyn Wood
Kitchen Supervisor: Gillian Wood

Associate Priest: Revd. Anita Matthews
anita@stpetersderby.org.uk

Church Wardens: Tim Benson, Sung-Hee Lee
Inside Out Team: Wayne Haycock

Administrator: Position vacant
office@stpetersderby.org.uk

We are a community of faith, hope and love in the heart of the city
Follow us on Twitter: @stpetersderby
www.stpetersderby.org.uk

St. Peter's Centre office (01332 360790) is open:

Monday to Thursday from 9.00-2.30

Parish Safeguarding Link: Revd. Anita Matthews